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## Water Rates Should Be Reduced!

An Editorial

By GROVER C. WHYTE

There will be widespread disappointment among water consumers in Torrance if the city council follows the recommendations of the city's consulting engineer, Arthur Taylor, and gives a mere 15 per cent reduction in domestic water rates for the first year. "Better and cheaper water" was the campaign promise made at the time the \$400,000 water bonds were voted four years ago, and it was confidently expected that a substantial reduction in rates would be given as soon as the city took over its water system. In order to put Torrance on a comparable basis with neighboring communities, it will be necessary to eventually lower rates 50 per cent. However, such a sharp reduction can hardly be expected the first year, but it is not unreasonable to ask that rates be reduced 25 per cent at this time.

And a reduction of 25 per cent can safely be made within the next three months without any danger of increasing the tax rate, according to city officials who have given the financial set-up of the water department careful study. Water bills are at a minimum during January and February, and few would object to the city maintaining the present rate schedule for the next two months; but before spring a substantial decrease should be put into effect.

Abnormally high water rates have been responsible for keeping many people out of Torrance, and it is much more important that this city eliminate this obstacle to its development than it is to make money out of the sale of water. The increase in tax revenues that will accompany the growth of this city by making it attractive to new residents will more than offset any possible profit made by the water department.

Through modern purification methods, which are provided for in the new construction, the quality of the water will be brought up to a standard satisfactory for drinking and other uses. Better water is assured, and every effort should also be made to give us cheaper water, and thus fulfill the campaign promises made over four years ago.

## Carrell Hears First Case In This District

New Justice of the Peace  
Will Visit Torrance  
Every Tuesday

Judge Frank Carrell, newly elected justice of the peace of the consolidated Inglewood township, held court in Torrance for the first time Tuesday morning, January 8, when he heard the arraignment of James J. O'Toole, 1225 Madrid avenue and Robert Williams, Davidson City, who were arrested January 5 on complaint of Victor Rossel, 22116 South Vermont, on a charge of disturbing the peace.

O'Toole and Williams pleaded not guilty to the charge, and a court trial to hear the case was set for Tuesday, January 15, at 11 o'clock. They were represented by Attorney Torrance C. Welch.

Separate actions against the defendant, alleging battery, with Leonard Pizal as the complaining witness, will also be heard on this date, the action following their arraignment on January 3, when they pleaded not guilty, and were released on their own recognizance to appear for trial later.

An argument over a milk route of the district, being the cause of the difficulty, will be heard on January 7, following the action of the board of supervisors last fall when the five townships of Lomita, La Rambla, Redondo, Gardena and Inglewood were consolidated. On November 6 Judge Frank Carrell, of the Gardena court, was elected to preside over the new township, and later action was taken by the board to appoint Judge A. F. Monroe, former Inglewood justice, as the second justice for the township, since it appeared that there would be too much work for one justice to handle.

Judge Carrell announced on Tuesday that for the present he would devote one day each week to work in Torrance, coming here on Tuesday, and that he would spend Thursday of each week in Redondo Beach, holding court the balance of the time in Gardena.

Mrs. Bertha Wilcox, Lomita court clerk, has been retained as clerk and will be in charge of the office in Torrance. Constable Charles R. Taber and his wife, Mrs. Tirzah Taber, who has been in charge of the office work for the constables, have tendered their resignations.

## Drunk Drivers In Torrance Will Be Handed Penalties

Drunk driving in Torrance must stop, says Police Chief G. M. Calder, backed up by his corps of officers who are watching with considerable dismay the increasing number of such offenders who are taken into custody each week. Three cases in one day are too many, says the chief, and in this regard he is backed up by Police Judge Robert F. Lessing, who says that from now on, the man or woman who is brought into court on such a charge may expect no mercy but will be given a severe penalty.

It may be news to the general motoring public that under the California vehicle law, drunk driving can no longer be classed as a misdemeanor, but has been made a felony, with penalties ranging from a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for one year in the state penitentiary to a maximum of \$5000 fine and three years incarceration.

Drunk drivers constitute one of the greatest threats against the public peace and safety of the present day and this disregard for the lives of others must cease.

## Drill Dry Wells to Drain Floods At Hydril Plant

In an effort to relieve flood water conditions surrounding the Hydril Company plant on Lomita boulevard, the Torrance city council authorized the drilling of two dry wells this week, upon recommendation of City Engineer F. R. Leonard. It is hoped that if these wells are drilled through the hard adobe that the water will drain away in the more porous sub-soil.

Reduced fare on the Pacific Electric railway from the Dolanco station to any point on the line in Torrance as far south as Plaza del Amo is now in effect. The fare has been cut from 10 to 5 cents. Dolanco station is located at the site of the Hughes-Mitchell plant.

## HARBOR CHAMBERS INSTALL ITS OFFICERS HERE TONIGHT

Supervisor John R. Quinn Will Act As Installing Officer;  
Many Distinguished Members and Guests Expected  
At Annual Gathering In Torrance

Fred W. Marlow, director of the Southern California district, of the Federal Housing Administration, will be the speaker of the evening at the annual installation meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce, which will be held this afternoon and evening at the Woman's clubhouse, 1422 Engracia avenue.

Mr. Marlow will talk on "Better Housing," a timely topic in view of the activities of federal workers in Torrance and Lomita who have just completed a survey of the needs of the property owners for improvements in their homes. His talk will take up various phases of the better housing program and show how easily applicable it is to the wants of those who are in a position to take advantage of it.

The evening program will open with the singing of "America" by the assembly, followed by the invocation by Rev. George G. Elder. Dinner will be served by the Woman's Club, and more than 200 guests are expected.

Mr. Marlow will also discuss the activities of federal workers in Torrance and Lomita who have just completed a survey of the needs of the property owners for improvements in their homes.

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## Resignations of Lomita Officers Effective Jan. 22

Constable and Mrs. Taber  
Retire After Decade of  
Active Service

Resignations of Constable Charles R. Taber and his deputy, Mrs. Tirzah Taber, who has been in charge of office work in the constable's office for the past ten and one-half years, will take effect January 22, when Constable and Mrs. Taber will retire to private life. The office of the constable in Lomita was closed on Wednesday, and all official records were removed.

Contrary to the announcement, made recently, which had the appearance of authority since it was issued from the department of public relations of the sheriff's office, the appointment of Mr. Taber as constable of the new Inglewood township, was not made. Instead, Taber was offered a deputy constable's post, which he declined to accept and tendered his resignation. Taber has been in charge of this work in Lomita township for the past 11 years, and is the oldest constable in Southern California.

His wife has been a member of the force for slightly less than that number of years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Taber have been efficient officers, and have handled the duties of their posts in a manner that met with the approval of all law-abiding residents of the township, and their retirement is regretted.

With the closing of the office in Lomita, Mr. and Mrs. Taber gave up active work as officers, but since each is entitled to a vacation period for the year their actual retirement from the service will not become effective until January 22.

Their plans for the future are as yet indefinite, but they expect to remain as residents of the district.

With the closing of the local office and the retirement of the constable, Lomita is now left without local police protection. All cases of a criminal nature will now be handled through Sheriff's sub-station No. 3, located on Vermont avenue, telephone Thornwall 1168, while the civil work will be handled by the constable of the new Inglewood township. The sheriff's radio car which patrols the district at night will still be in operation, but calls for its services will have to be relayed through sub-station 3.

## Clerk's Time Is Divided Between Torrance, Redondo

As stated elsewhere in this issue, Judge Frank Carrell will hold court in Torrance on Tuesday of each week, but on Thursday in Redondo Beach. The clerk of the court, Mrs. Bertha Wilcox, will be in attendance at these court sessions all day, Tuesday in this city and Thursday in Redondo. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday she will be found in the Torrance office during the morning, and at the Redondo office in the afternoon.

All cases which had been set for hearing today in the Torrance court were postponed until next Tuesday, January 15.

## Quarterly Meeting of C. of C. Members

The regular quarterly membership meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held Tuesday evening, January 15, at 7:30 at the chamber rooms in the rear of the Bank of America. There will be no speaker in order to give ample time for open discussion of local problems. All members are requested to attend.

## Mother Is Awarded Custody of Child

At the conclusion of a hearing in superior court this week, Melva Snyder states that she was awarded the custody of her son, three months old. Suit had been brought by her former husband, James J. Matthews, Jr., but on hearing the testimony the custody of the child was granted to the young mother. Miss Snyder's marriage to Matthews was annulled in July, 1934.

## PIONEER GROCER DIES

J. S. Smart, one of the organizers of the Smart & Final Co. wholesale grocery chain, and chairman of its board of directors, passed away Sunday of a heart attack, at his home in Santa Ana.

## CITY LEASES CRAVENS AVE. BUILDING FOR WATER DEPT.

Report On Financial Set-Up and Possible Rate Reductions  
Given By Consulting Engineer; Would  
Employ Local Men

Offices of the newly acquired municipal water department will be moved about February 1 from the present quarters occupied by the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company on Post avenue to the building owned by Sam Levy on Cravens avenue, directly opposite the city hall.

## Around the Council Table

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett was authorized to negotiate for a six-months contract with the General Petroleum Corporation for the delivery of gasoline to the city at a price of 1 1/2 cents a gallon, plus tax, on a basis of 2500 gallons or more. The city now has a contract with the General Petroleum which will expire at the end of the fiscal year at a higher price, but was offered the lower rate on a new contract to expire next December. The city council expressed a reluctance to accept the offer for a period extending beyond the fiscal year and instructed the clerk to find out if a contract could be made for six months.

A communication from the General Petroleum Corporation acknowledging receipt of the city's check for \$9000 in payment for the Cedar avenue right-of-way through their property, was read and ordered filed. Deeds for the easement over the property have been received.

The council adopted a resolution accepting the deeds for land and easement, recently purchased from the C. C. M. O. for the location of a reservoir and pumping plant.

Payment of \$75 annual dues to the League of Municipalities covering the city's membership for the ensuing year was authorized.

On motion of Councilman J. E. Hitchcock, chairman of the street department, an additional \$75 was appropriated to cover the expense of moving additional trees from the Del Amo nursery, to complete the city's tree-planting program. Already more than 2000 trees have been set out along certain highways but more are required and can be obtained on the same liberal terms as the first supply. When all the planting has been finished the major highways leading into Torrance and many of the residence streets will have been lined with shade and flowering trees.

Councilman Hitchcock also requested the appropriation of \$40 to build a shed in the rear of the fire station at WALTERIA. The request was granted.

The council voted to extend an invitation to the Fire Chiefs Association of the three states of California, Nevada and Arizona, to hold its next convention in Torrance on June 15. The invitation will be relayed to the group and it is hoped that it will be accepted, bringing to Torrance the first convention it has ever entertained. Approximately 250 voting delegates will enroll, besides numerous other members and interested parties. Huntington Park is also a candidate for the honor.

In response to a letter from the city planning commission, urging the city to list as many projects as possible which will be eligible for federal financing, the council instructed City Engineer Frank Leonard to make up a list of improvements needed by Torrance on which to file applications. Some of the proposed projects are the widening and paving of Narbonne avenue from the end of Arlington to the city limits, improvement of Sepulveda boulevard from Hawthorne, paving on Catalina avenue and Plaza del Amo which is badly in need of repair. Other street improvements will probably be listed.

## RATE REDUCTIONS

Under the set-up submitted by Mr. Taylor, a reduction in local water rates of 15 per cent would be given the first year, with an additional 10 per cent reduction in 1936. By 1941, it would be possible to cut the rates to approximately half the present schedule. No action regarding rate reductions, however, was taken by the city council, and the present schedule will remain in force for the time being, it was indicated.

## BUILDING PERMIT

Permit for the construction of an addition to a corrugated iron chemical plant building at 2021 Normandie avenue, has been issued to the Hughes-Mitchell Processes, Inc. The addition, to be 12 by 20 feet, will cost \$300.

## Moose Lodge and Whittier Unite For Initiation

Large Class to Be Adopted  
At Meeting Held Tomorrow Night

Torrance lodge, L. O. C. M., will combine with the Whittier lodge to put on a big initiation ceremony at their lodge rooms tomorrow evening, Friday, January 11. The local lodge is participating in the nation-wide drive for membership which closes January 31, and will have a large class to adopt at this meeting.

The Torrance lodge is one of the most progressive and active groups in this section, and is always on the alert to bring favorable publicity to itself and the community as witnessed by its success during the last state convention when the Torrance contingent won the first prize for its showing in the parade at Long Beach last summer. The cup and key awarded them at that time are now on display at the Chamber of Commerce. The lodge is busy at present making ready to enter the competition at the next convention which will be held in Oakland, in August, and will probably display the same unique project that won them fame at Long Beach.

## Minstrel Show At Recreation Center Next Tuesday Nite

Due to an unfortunate misunderstanding as to transportation for the colored orchestras which were scheduled to play for dancing at the recreation center here and in WALTERIA last Tuesday night, several hundred people were disappointed. The failure of the orchestras to appear was no fault of the playground managers, and all future difficulties of that kind will be avoided, according to their announcement this week.

The next entertainment, a minstrel show, to be put on by dramatic talent from Los Angeles, will be held as stated, next Tuesday evening, January 15, and the public is invited to attend. All other plans for the month will be carried out. They include an old fashioned dance on January 22, and a swimming party at Redondo Beach on January 29.

## Funeral Services Held For Father of Jos. R. Klink

Funeral rites for Joseph B. Klink, 74, of 1131 North Geneva street, Glendale, who passed away at the General Hospital Tuesday night, were conducted today at 1:30 p. m. at the Wee Kirk of the Heather, Glendale, under direction of the Forest Lawn Mortuary. Interment followed in Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Mr. Klink, native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, was a retired butcher. He came to California six years ago from Guthrie, Oklahoma, and had lived at the Glendale address for the last four years. He was a member of the Masonic order.

He is survived by two sons, Paul Klink, of 1131 1/2 East Maple street, Glendale, and J. R. Klink, of 1531 El Prado, Torrance; and five daughters, Mrs. Nell Doye, 1104 North Maryland street; Mrs. Edna Plukenton, 702 West Doran street; Mrs. Helen Cunningham, 900 North Brand boulevard; Mrs. Dorothy Harris, 1131 North Geneva, all of Glendale; and Mrs. Edna Kaufman, of St. Louis, Missouri.

## RAINFALL

Up to last night, rainfall in Torrance measured 1.05 inches for the storm of the week, a total of 11.30 for the season, which is 4.17 inches more than was recorded at the same date last year.

In Lomita the rain gauge at Narbonne high school showed 1.21 inches for the storm, up to Wednesday evening, 10.65 inches for the season and 9.10 for last year to date.

## HIT A MULE

Clyde Watts, 16433 St. Andrews, Moneta, told police that his car struck a mule which was wandering on the highway near Western and 190th street last Saturday.

## THANKS ALL WHO HELPED

Mrs. Flora Waters, chairman in charge of the Red Cross membership drive, thanks all those who aided either by paying their dues or in other ways, during the campaign just closed. The hearty co-operation of all is appreciated, says Mrs. Waters.

## Hot Tips for Contractors and Building Supply Men!

Plenty of work and orders waiting for you right here in Torrance and Lomita. The house-to-house canvass is revealing scores of people ready and anxious to build or remodel under the liberal financing terms of the Federal Housing Act. Others desire mechanical refrigerators and other household appliances.

In order that Contractors, Builders, Supply Men, and Appliance Merchants may be thoroughly familiar with the terms and opportunities of the Federal Housing Act, a special illustrated lecture will be given for their benefit Friday, January 11, at 7:30 P. M. at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. No charge for admission. . . . collection! Come and get prepared to answer questions of prospective customers.

A discussion as to the method of distributing "leads" developed during the house-to-house canvass will also be held.

ALSO—Attend the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce dinner tonight . . . 6:30 o'clock at Woman's Clubhouse. Hear address by Fred W. Marlow, director of FHA in Southern California. 75c plate.